



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Health Service Regulation Adult Care Licensure Section**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor

Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Barbara Ryan, Chief

**Questionnaire Request**

**To:** Facility Administrator  
**From:** Barbara Ryan  
**Date:** June 19, 2008  
**Subject:** Safety of residents transported in facility-operated vehicles while seated in wheelchairs.

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We need your help!

Did you know that nationally there has been a rise in the number of injuries to residents being transported in their wheelchairs?

We recently discovered this trend, and asked our staff to review these types of injuries. What we found was that many of these injuries occurred just from a lane change, applying the brakes, or going over rough pavement. In many of these incidents, the facilities were following all the required rules, but residents were still getting injured.

This does not need to happen. There are simple methods available to secure residents while seated in wheelchairs. See <http://www.travelsafer.org>. That is why we are studying the development of new regulations. These regulations would require compliance with national safety standards for people who need to be transported while seated in a wheelchair. The regulations may affect your organization.

Please help advance the safety of your residents by completing the [online questionnaire](#). The information is necessary to determine the impact of a new rule and to estimate the cost to each facility.

If you have questions or comments, you can reach me by phone or e-mail.

Phone: 919-855-3765  
E-mail: [Barbara.Ryan@ncmail.net](mailto:Barbara.Ryan@ncmail.net)

Your response must be received no later than July 31, 2008 to be included in the tabulation.

Thank you for your assistance in enhancing the safety of your residents.

